

Fact Sheet: Cohort Review in Washington State

2/23/04

What is cohort review

1. Systematic review of patients with tuberculosis (TB) disease and their contacts
2. A "cohort" of patients from a specific period of time (usually 3 months) is reviewed in terms of individual patient outcomes and program performance

Purpose of cohort review

1. Identify program strengths and weaknesses
2. Identify staff training and professional education needs, and
3. Provide accountability for completion of treatment for TB disease
4. Case managers know that their day-to-day efforts will be reflected in the cohort review several months later and that they are accountable for the services they provide
5. Allow clinical staff to ask expert clinicians and managers about patient care
6. Patients are less likely to "fall through the cracks" and receive inadequate care

Process in WA State

1. The cohort: all cases counted by Washington State Department of Health (DOH) TB Program during a particular quarter of the year
2. Quarterly cohort review sessions are scheduled approximately 9 months after cases are counted. For example, July - September 2003 cases are reviewed April 2004
3. Staff prepare for case presentation by using a cohort review form
4. Cohort review session is conducted with TB Program Coordinator, Nursing Consultants, medical consultant, epidemiologist, and other appropriate staff
5. DOH TB Program staff initiated cohort review sessions at the state level in May 2003 to learn the process. Training of Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) will occur in 2004 with eventual integration of LHJ staff and state staff in cohort review sessions

Analyses

1. Case reports are sent from LHJs to the WA State DOH TB Program and entered into the Tuberculosis Information Management database and Contacts Database
2. The DOH TB Program epidemiologist analyzes the DOH databases
3. Final analyses of case and contact data are provided for the previous cohort
4. Preliminary analyses are provided for the cohort being reviewed during the session
5. After the cohort review session, cohort review forms are sent to the DOH TB epidemiologist who analyzes additional information collected on these forms